

Serial No.:10/594,942

Inventor(s): Omdoll et al.

Title: *Chilling Utensil and Method of Use*

Docket No.: 1414.093

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A device for chilling warm material comprising:

a body having a base extending along a first horizontal plane, a series of sidewalls extending upwardly along a set of vertical planes from the base, a top extending along a second horizontal plane and connected to the sidewalls and above the base, wherein the base, sidewalls, and top collectively define at least a partially hollow interior;

a mouth situated on said body providing access to the hollow interior of said body, wherein said mouth is formed in the top of said body and has an opening defined along a third horizontal plane that is parallel to the base~~first and the second horizontal planes, and wherein the opening of the mouth defines a maximum fill level~~;

a cover adapted to close the mouth, the cover having a hollow interior defining an expansion volume that is fluidly coupled to the hollow interior of the body when the cover is engaged with the mouth, such that when the hollow interior of said body is filled with liquid the hollow interior of the cover remains unfilled with the liquid; and

wherein the cover and the body collectively provide a closed volume that permits limited expansion of substantially frozen liquid filled to the maximum fill level contained in the body into the expansion volume of the cover when the liquid undergoes freezing, and wherein liquid may only be removed from the hollow interior of the body when the cover is disengaged from the mouth.

2. (Original) A device according to claim 1, wherein the device cannot be overfilled.

3. (Original) A device according to claim 1, wherein said mouth is sized to accommodate ice cubes.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) A device according to claim 1, further comprising means for hanging said device.

7. (Original) A device according to claim 1, further comprising a device for ascertaining the temperature of liquid in said hollow interior of said body.

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8. (Currently Amended) A device for chilling warm material comprising:
 - a body shaped to provide an enlarged surface area, wherein the body is at least partially hollow, the body having a base portion and a top portion;
 - a mouth situated on said body providing access to the hollow interior of said body, wherein the mouth is formed in the top portion of the body and wherein the mouth defines a maximum fill level at which a cooling substance may be loaded into the body; and
 - a cover for said mouth comprising a hollow area extending above the top portion of said body to provide for expansion of liquid from within the body through the mouth and into the hollow area of the cover when said body is filled with a cooling substance and then frozen or otherwise exposed to an environment that causes the cooling substance with which said body is filled to expand, and wherein the body and cover define a closed volume when the cover is engaged with the mouth of the body from which the cooling substance cannot escape unless the cover is disengaged from the mouth; and

wherein the hollow area of the cover is at least ten percent larger in total volume than that of the hollow interior of the body.
9. (Original) A device according to claim 8, wherein the device cannot be overfilled.
10. (Original) A device according to claim 8, wherein said mouth is sized to accommodate ice cubes.
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Original) A device according to claim 8, further comprising means for hanging said device.
14. (Original) A device according to claim 13, wherein said means for hanging said device is part of said cover.

15. (Original) A device according to claim 8, further comprising a device for ascertaining the temperature of liquid in said hollow interior of said body.

16. (Cancelled)
17. (Cancelled)

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18. (Currently Amended) A device for chilling warm material contained in a vessel, comprising:

a body having at least a partially hollow interior, wherein the body has a lower section and an upper section and wherein the lower section includes a bottom surface for supporting the device in a standing position when the device is placed in the vessel;

a mouth formed in the lower section of the body and extending along a plane parallel to the bottom surface of the lower section, and providing access to the hollow interior of the body, wherein the mouth is positioned such that as the hollow interior is filled with fluid, a portion of the hollow interior above the mouth remains unfilled with fluid; and

a handle formed in the upper section of the body, wherein the handle has a generally upright orientation defined orthogonal to the bottom surface of the lower section.

19. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 18 wherein during use the lower section of the body is submerged in the warm material and the upper section, including the handle, are in a raised position relative to the warm material so that the handle may be grasped by a hand without the hand contacting the warm material.

20. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 18 wherein the mouth is defined along a plane that is parallel to that of the bottom surface of the lower section.

21. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 18 wherein the upper section includes a fill stem extending parallel to and spaced from the handle, wherein the mouth is formed in a top of the fill stem, and further comprising a connecting member connecting the fill stem and the handle such that a void is formed in the upper section and wherein the void is constructed to receive a hanger of a storage apparatus.